

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in this application after this Amendment. Claims 1, 7-8, 13-14, 20, and 25-27 are independent. Claims 14-28 have been added for consideration by the Examiner. In light of the amendments and remarks made herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-10 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Guturu et al. (USP 6,581,075); rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Guturu et al. in view of Thorne et al. (USP 6,047,289); and rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Guturu et al. in view of Thorne et al. and further in view of Berkowitz et al. (USP 6,529,921). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

With regard to the Examiner's rejection of the independent claims, the Examiner asserts that Guturu et al. teaches all of the elements as set forth in the claims. Applicants respectfully disagree with these assertions.

The disclosure of Guturu et al. is directed to a system and method for database synchronization among multiple databases. Guturu et al. provides for a system including a network of redundant service control point (SCP) nodes. A first set of SCPs

10-12 are interconnected by a network such as a local area network (LAN), and a second set of SCPs 16-18 are interconnected by a second network 22. The two sets of SCPs may further be coupled together via a long distance network, such as a wide area network (WAN) 20. The system anticipates at least two sources of data updates, the service management system (SMS) 24 and the Signaling System 7 (SS7) networks 26 and 27. (Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 42-54).

Specifically, at col. 4, lines 1-32, Guturu et al. teaches as follows:

FIGS. 2 and 3 are flowcharts of an embodiment of a local update process 30 according to the teachings of the present invention. A local request is one that is received from a request handler (RH) 240 and originates at the local SCP, such as shown in FIG. 9. Request handler 240 receives network side updates (NSUs) 241 from the SS7 network 26, processes the request by resolving any conflicts, and instructs database (DB) server 242 to modify the data in database 244. Database request handler 250 receives network side update requests 252 from other network sources and processes them in a similar manner. SMS request handler 254, on the other hand, receives SMS updates 256 from SMS 24, which are typically service provisioning data, such as adding a customer with a particular set of services. In block 32, local update requests received by the request handler are timestamped. Then, using the key or index value contained in the local update request, the database is searched to determine whether a record exists with the same index value, as shown in block 34. The existing data record is read from the database into a temporary buffer and the change in data is made to data in the buffer. The timestamp, version number, SCP identifier are then updated in the buffered data to reflect that of the update request. The data record in the buffer is then used to replace or update the data record in the database. The data record is then propagated to or replicated at other SCP nodes in the network.

As can be seen from the above, the timestamp information is stored with the data at each of the respective databases.

In contrast, the present invention as set forth in claim 1, as amended, recites, *inter alia*, an integrated information management apparatus, comprising: data base storing means for storing a first data base at the integrated information management apparatus; consistency maintaining means for performing consistency maintaining processes by replacing data of said first data base with data of a second data base different from said first data base; and data determining means for designating as data of which consistency is to be maintained between said first and second data bases, data included in said first data base and having modification time newer than the time of the last consistency maintaining process, based on consistency maintaining process time information representing time when the last consistency maintaining process was performed, and based on data modification time information corresponding to each data included in said first data base and representing time when each said data is modified.

While Guturu et al. teaches storing timestamp information with the data at each of the respective databases, Guturu et al. fails to teach a database at the information management apparatus that stores time information for data stored in databases at both the information management apparatus and at a second database different from the first database. Guturu et al. teaches obtaining the timestamp information directly from databases at counterpart devices.

Based upon the teachings above, it is respectfully submitted that *Guturu et al.* fails to teach or suggest a data determining means for designating as data of which consistency is to be maintained between first and second databases, data included in the first database and having modification time newer than the time of the last consistency maintaining process, based on consistency maintaining process time information representing time when the last consistency maintaining process was performed, and based on data modification time information corresponding to each data included in the first database and representing time when each said data is modified, where the first database is located at the information management apparatus. As such, it is respectfully submitted that *Guturu et al.* fails to anticipate the present invention Applicants request that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that claims dependent on claim 1 are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1 based on their dependency on claim 1. It is further respectfully submitted that claims 7-8, 13-14, 20, and 25-27 contain elements similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1, and thus claims 7-8, 13-14, 20, and 25-27, together with claims dependent thereon, are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1.

Additional Comments

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the initialed Form PTO-1449 filed on March 1, 2002. However, in reviewing this form, Applicants note that the second document, namely JP 9-6693, January 10, 1997, which included an English abstract, has failed to be considered by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request consideration of this document.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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